

JAPAN CHRISTIAN ACTIVITY NEWS

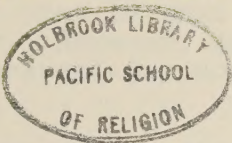
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THE CONDITIONS OF PEACE

The Yomiuri Shimbun(Newspaper), in an effort to promote mutual understanding among the people of the world, has initiated an exchange of correspondence between prominent Japanese men and women and internationally recognized persons who are leaders in their chosen field. The procedure is for the Japanese to first write his views and solicit the opinions of the foreign personality on the subject "The Conditions of Peace."

The first exchange was between Mrs. Miki Sawada, known for her aid to abandoned children born out of wedlock to service personnel from foreign countries and Japanese women, and American novelist Pearl Buck in February. The second exchange was between Dr. Hidenoby Kuwada, president of the Tokyo Union Theological Seminary and Dr. Karl Barth, often regarded as the greatest Protestant theologian of the 20th century. This exchange appeared in the March 24th issue of the Yomiuri Shinbun and in the April 22nd issue of the English Yomiuri.

Dr. Kuwada, in his letter, explained how he, a theologian in Japan thinks about the matter of peace in the Japanese situation. He stated that he was not a member of the peace movement in Japan although he recognized "the importances of the social responsibility of Christians," was "in favor of any healthy peace movement and support(ed) the endeavor to promote federal world government."

He noted that though he was frequently criticized for it, he did not participate actively in political activities but rather believed his duty was to "serve (his) country spiritually by pointing out the right direction and giving warnings when necessary for the nation from the standpoint of (his) Christian faith." According to Rev. Kuwada this was the social function of the church -- this viewing of events from the "vantage point of the inner and basic realities underlying them."

Dr. Kuwada, who was in the United States last autumn just at the time of the riots at Mississippi University, also said that this could be interpreted as "simply the result of a conflict between human rights, traditions and law." However, he "felt strongly that underlying this incident were deep realities which in Christianity we call 'original sin,'" and that these "hidden realities (were) also behind the events taking place in Japan and in the world at large."

Dr. Kuwada noted that although there were various ideas of peace in Japan the "general view is that a peaceful society is a world where there is no war. However, jealousy, hatred and strife amongst men are active in present-day society even where there is no war."

He said that recently in Japan a famous Buddhist scholar "interpreted the cross of Christ as a symbol of strife. But I see here the reconciliation of God as the gracious solution of human hatred and strife, a reconciliation effected through suffering and death. This may seem rather strange and unnatural to the Japanese mind. Nevertheless, it is here and here alone that we have the key to the true meaning of peace as the restoration of the personal relationship between God and man as well as between man and man."

Dr. Kuwada stressed that "peace should be sought not in mere nature, apart from man and society, but in and among them."

Dr. Barth in his reply agreed with the basic position of Dr. Kuwada that a mere protest against war, etc., was not sufficient, although necessary, and that the role as a Christian and theologian was different. Dr. Barth noted that in the Bible the concept of "peace" was "identical with the much more comprehensive concept of 'salvation'" and that the "salvation which produces peace among the nation" was that which Dr. Kuwada designated toward the end of his letter as God's "great reconciliation."

He emphasized that this reconciliation, which also implied the "reconciliation of men with their fellow men" had "already been accomplished" by God himself in the history of Jesus Christ, in his life and death, and has already been revealed in his resurrection from the dead." In Christ there are no enemies.

Dr. Barth noted that the world lacks the "knowledge and consciousness of human responsibility over against the fact that freedom is not a lovely idea, but a reality which God himself has created and made visible within the history of the world." He stressed that the Christian Churches have failed to proclaim the "objective reality of salvation and the peace entailed in it with a clarity, definiteness, joy and consistency commensurate with the great fact."

We must affirm that peace is better than war but the world needs even more the "revolutionary knowledge that she is liberated," said Dr. Barth. What is required "above all in the interest of peace is an awakening, an inner renewal, a spiritual reformation, and to that extent a conversion of Christians and the Christian churches themselves to the truth of their own message."

KYODAN AND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH U.S. INFORMAL CONSULTATION

A report of an informal consultation of several Kyodan leaders including moderator Omura with Dr. J.A. Cogswell, Sec. for Asia of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and representative missionaries of the Japan Mission, held at the International House on March 14 to discuss cooperative relations between the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. and the Kyodan, was approved at the 5th meeting of the Executive Committee of Kyodan on April 1. A preposal by executive member Yamakita that the executive committee officers select a committee for further consultation was unanimously approved.

Chairman of the Finance Committee Kudo reported that Rev. Walter Baldwin, Japan Representative of the Presbyterian Church in the U.S., had proposed to raise \$75,000 as a part of the capital fund campaign being conducted by the Kyodan. This was approved with an expression of appreciation.

Kudo expressed the desire that when the money is on hand that \$40,000 be placed in the pension fund and \$35,000 be directed to the loan fund for church building.

JAPAN SUMMER SERVICE PROJECTS

The Summer Service Projects Committee of the Youth Commission of the Japan NCC, chairman - Mr. Hajime Ogawa and Secretary - Rev. Masami Mizuno, has announced the summer service projects for 1963.

An Ecumenical Work Camp, July 17 - Aug. 14, composed of young people, Japanese and foreign between the ages of 18 and 30, will work with people of the local area to level ground and build a road at the Shimada-Ryoikuen, an institution for the physically and mentally handicapped children.

A High School Work Camp, July 29 - Aug. 10, composed of 30 Japanese high school youths will level ground and build a road at the Sedana Livestock Center in Hokkaido.

Youth Caravan work, July 15 - Aug. 5, involved the sending of small teams to areas where there is need for pioneer evangelism. Evangelistic meetings, Bible Classes will be conducted and efforts made to vitalize church youth programs. Efforts this year will be concentrated among Korean churches in north Kyushu.

Youth in Industry projects, July 20 - Aug. 17 will place students in regular factory jobs where they will have opportunity to examine the relevance of Christian faith to economic life through discussions with laborers, management and community leaders.

Applications should be addressed to the Japan NCC, Kyobunkan Building, 2, 4-chome, Ginza, Chuo-Ku, Tokyo, Japan, c/o Rev. Masami Mizuno.

FARM SCHOOL

The Kiyosato Education Experiment Project (KEEP) located in the highlands of Yamanashi Prefecture, 120 miles west of Tokyo, middle school students, including four young future farmers sponsored by the Okinawa Jersey Cattle Association and the Government forming the student body.

The first two years will be preparatory years and at the end of the second pioneer year in 1965, the regulation senior agricultural high school of three years will be established.

Outstanding lecturers from well-known Japanese universities and government animal husbandry stations will instruct Ethics, Social Science, Mathematics, Physics, Agricultural Industry, English, Farm Economics, Feeds, Soil, Fertilizers, Chemistry, Grass, Plants, Biology and Livestock during a 48-hour weekly schedule, equally divided into classroom and field work.

Dr. Paul Rusch, founder of Keep and head of the school, presented each entering student with a registered Jersey calf, the student will be responsible for its raising. Methods of cooperative care of dairy cattle in the highland villages of rural Japan will be taught.

The Farm School will emphasize highland farm techniques aimed at turning out practical farmers who will carry their knowledge back to their own prefectures and villages.

During the past 10 years KEEP has built a model teaching farm equipped with modern barns, upright and trench silos, a four-cow electric milking parlor and pasteurizing plant. A Jersey herd of 70 includes some of the outstanding registered stock of the nation.

A starter herd of Herefords, sent as a gift from the Amarilla Rotary Club, and the prize bull Prince Larry VII, a gift from Mr. John Nicholas Brown of Providence, R.I., housed in a new beef cattle barn, a gift from the Episcopal Church women of Iowa, has made possible an expansion of Hereford cattle raising in the highlands.

The Lilly Endowment Inc., of Indianapolis, Indiana, made possible the inauguration of the Farm School with a generous grant, and John Deere and Co. of Moline, Illinois, is providing six pieces of modern heavy machinery. The latter organization will also send a teaching engineer to instruct in the practical use and maintenance of modern farm equipment.

BOY SCOUTS MAY WEAR "CHRISTIAN" BADGE

In order to emphasize the Christian idealism in Boy Scout activities, it has been decided to allow the Scouts to wear badges signifying that they are Christians. The committee awarding the badges is made up of six members, from Protestant and Roman Catholic Churches. Scouts beyond first grade must be able to recite the Creed, the confession of faith and the Lord's Prayer. They must be able to explain the doctrines of their own church; Creation; the Life of Christ and the Mighty Acts of God; the Holy Spirit; the meaning of Church and the Bible and something of Church history. They must make efforts to keep their own church life at a high standard and take part in religious activities faithfully.

* * *

Tokyo Union Theological Seminary will celebrate its 20th anniversary on May 18. There will be several lectures in various places of Japan to mark the event.

